

+61 2 62701951



**Botschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
CANBERRA**
Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Canberra, 07.10.03

Gz.: RK 516.20
(Please quote)

Skilled migration inquiry
Submission No. 56

Parliament of Australia
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Parliament House
Room R 1- 106
Canberra, ACT, 2600
Fax: 6277 8506

Subj.: Skilled migration inquiry on Monday, 18 August 2003
here: Amendments to the Proof Committee Hansard
Ref.: Your letter dated 02. September 2003
Encl.:

Dear Mr. Dyer,

The evidence gives rise to further explanation to avoid a misunderstanding of our visa program.

Under the regular visa jurisdiction, qualified workers have the possibility to apply for a visa and work permit after providing a work contract with any employer in Germany. The competent authority (Ausländerbehörde) of the city of intended stay will approve or disapprove granting the visa. The applicant is allowed to remain in Germany as long the contract is valid. The temporary residence visa will be issued for 2 years at a time and could be extended as long as it is necessary for this particular work. After 8 years of legal residence in Germany the applicant is eligible to apply for naturalization.

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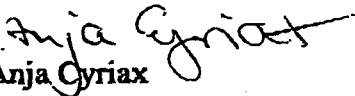
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However, the German government identified a lack of skilled work force in the IT-area and introduced a special visa scheme (Green Card for IT-specialists). This has been implemented to comply with a temporary lack of EU- and German specialists in this field. The "Green Card" will be issued for 5 years and is not supposed to be extended. A status change for people arriving in Germany under this scheme is not intended.

The programm has been a temporary solution to fill a gap on the employment market until the new Migration Act would come into force, which would include as well a passage for the migration of skilled labour. Unfortunately the Migration Act has not entered force (ref. evidence of Mr. Klapper) and the Green Card Programm has been extended to 31. December 2004.

Hoping that this additional information has been satisfying for you,
I remain

Yours sincerely,


Anja Cyriax